

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A networked computer telephony system, comprising:

5 a plurality of Extensible Markup Language (XML) documents being hosted by web servers on the Internet, each of said XML documents constituting a telephony application associated with a specified call number and including telephony-specific XML tags instructing how a telephone call to the specified call number is to be processed;

one or more application gateway center accessible via the Internet for receiving and  
10 processing said telephone call, said one or more application gateway center individually further comprising:

means for retrieving the XML document associated with the specified call number;  
and

means for executing the associated XML document including telephony-specific  
15 XML tags to process said telephone call.

2. The networked computer telephony system as in 1, wherein said system includes the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and the Internet.

20 3. The networked computer telephony system as in 2, wherein said telephone call originated from the PSTN and is routed to the internet via an internet access server.

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a network monitoring server for dynamically analyzing said network statistics  
5 collected from said plurality of network traffic monitors into a prioritized list of XML  
documents relative to application gateway centers having the fastest access thereto; and

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posting said XML document to a specified location on the Internet;

providing a directory for locating said XML document by the specified call number;

receiving said telephone call on the Internet;

retrieving said XML document at the specified location looked up from said directory  
20 with the specified call number; and

processing said telephone call according to said XML document.

providing an application gateway center on the Internet for performing said step of receiving said telephone call, retrieving said XML document and processing said telephone call according to said XML document are performed by said application gateway center.

said XML document posted to a specified location is one of a plurality of XML documents at different locations on the Internet; and

12. A method of processing a telephone call to a specified call number as in 11, further comprising:

monitoring the accessibility of each XML documents relative to said plurality of application gateway centers on the Internet; and

responsive to said monitoring, receiving said telephone call at one of said plurality of application gateway centers that is most accessible to said XML document.

14. A method of processing a telephone call to a specified call number, as in anyone of 9-12, wherein said telephone call originated from the Internet.

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